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To my elected representatives, I am writing to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB 6667 “AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE”. I will start by noting that it’s interesting that a similar bill - S.B. 16, “AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME, “ was put forth by the Governor during his election campaign, which leads one to believe that the previous proposal wasn’t as serious about addressing gun violence as it was a tool to get more votes for his re-election. And it continues to be “un-serious”, as this bill seems to be a copy/paste of the former, with add-ons to further infringe on the rights of law-abiding Connecticut residents - particularly **minority firearms owners like myself**, who I feel compelled to fight for.

The very first section of the bill revives the part of the Governor’s previous proposal which many would consider a veiled “Stop and Frisk” law. It will empower law enforcement to ask citizens for permits in instances of “open-carry”, which can be loosely interpreted - and **from my perspective may become a slippery slope to racial profiling**. The section states that a “fleeting glimpse of a firearm shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision”, but what is considered a “fleeting glimpse”? During the public hearing of the Judiciary Committee last year, I took note that not only were Connecticut gun owners opposed to this, but also several organizations who advocate for Connecticut’s poor and Black Lives Matter 860. It is upsetting that **minorities in Connecticut are one of the fastest growing demographics who are legally obtaining permits, purchasing firearms, going to classes, and joining ranges and clubs in our state**, only to be potentially stifled by Ned Lamont’s poorly targeted legislation.

I would also like to point out the numerous additional restrictions in this bill place undue burden on those of us who have complied with all the aspects of Connecticut law regarding the safe storage, training with, and lawful use of firearms. There is no reason that those of us who have been following the law need to be saddled with more “gun control”, as we are not causing the “gun violence. **The Governor’s efforts should be focused on the illegal use of firearms and the mental health initiatives** touted as far back as the Sandy Hook Tragedy - as little progress seems to have been made on either of these fronts. I’m asking you to oppose this bill by stopping this legislation from leaving the Judiciary Committee.

I'd also like to express my opposition for HB 6816, titled "AN ACT CONCERNING MICROSTAMPING-ENABLED PISTOLS, RAISING THE AGE TO PURCHASE AMMUNITION AND RESTRICTING THE SALE AND POSSESSION OF BODY ARMOR." Here again is an unnecessary piece of legislation, as law abiding gun owners are being punished and over-regulated in the name of curbing illegal activity. Please focus on the better ideas like the task force on illegal firearms, and **allow Connecticut citizens to use these tools to protect ourselves** in cases where the police just can't arrive fast enough to stop someone with criminal intent or mental instability that may lead someone to act illegally with a firearm.

Finally I'd like to express my support for HB 6817 "AN ACT CONCERNING AN INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS TO OWN, POSSESS OR CARRY A FIREARM." **Rep. Craig Fishbein and Rep. Mark Anderson** have done a tremendous job in writing a clear and concise outline of what is expected of Connecticut Government who is supposed to be serving the needs of every state citizen who wishes to exercise their 2nd Amendment right; especially since the Leadership, bureaucracy, and law enforcement policies of this Connecticut treat us as if it's a "Connecticut Privilege."

Thank you for your time and consideration.